

Family's integral part

Woods dynasty one of strength

by JAMES TREMAIN

J J Woods and Sons Carriers is as much a symbol of Fairfield's heritage as the Lansdowne Bridge.

The transport business started by John James Woods in the twilight of the 19th century has literally helped transform Fairfield from a little rural town into a thriving city.

Born in 1876 in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, "Jack" Woods came to Sydney in 1895, aged 20.

Soon after arriving he moved to Fairfield where he set up a produce store, a cinema called the Plaza and the transport business that has survived almost a century.

An obituary published after Jack's funeral in 1957 described his daily routine.

"After taking the horses to paddock and cleaning up he would hurry to the theatre and on would go the silent films," the report said.

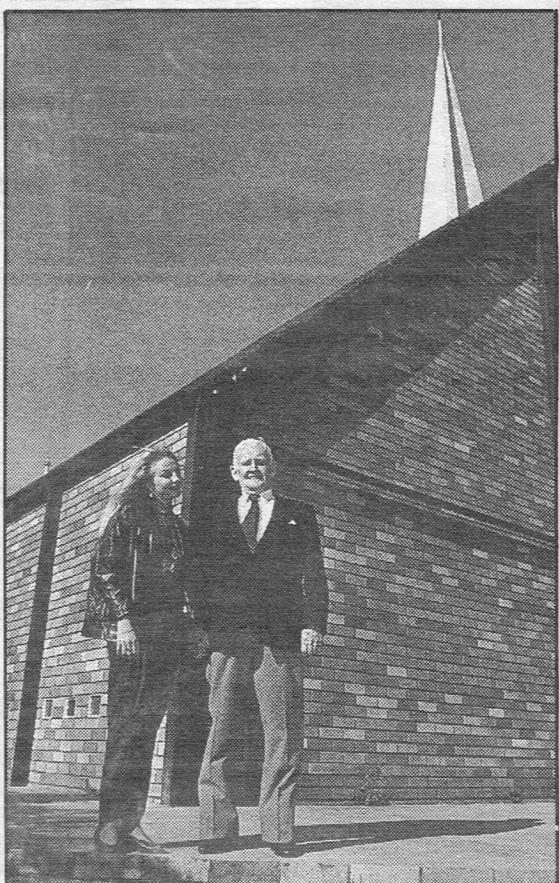
THE remaining elder members of the Woods clan will gather with the rest of the family at Shores Restaurant, Mosman, in August to celebrate the wedding of Tiffany Woods and Ivan Capeski. Tiffany is the great grand daughter of the founder of J J Woods and Sons Carriers, John James Woods, and daughter of Jeff Woods, a former science teacher who now manages the family business in Percival Rd, Wetherill Park. Tiffany grew up with her sister Rebecca at Frederick St and attended Fairfield Girls High School.

"Of course there were numerous breakdowns in those days and if they were too long the patrons would get their money back and return on another night.

"Mrs Woods would be at the door and the cunning little boys would soon find out she had a soft heart and pulled all sorts of stories to get in free, and they nearly always succeeded.

"At one time Jack Woods had 30 horses in work pulling wagons to and from Sydney and all around the district.

"It was not uncommon to see wagons bogged in Parramatta Rd on a wet

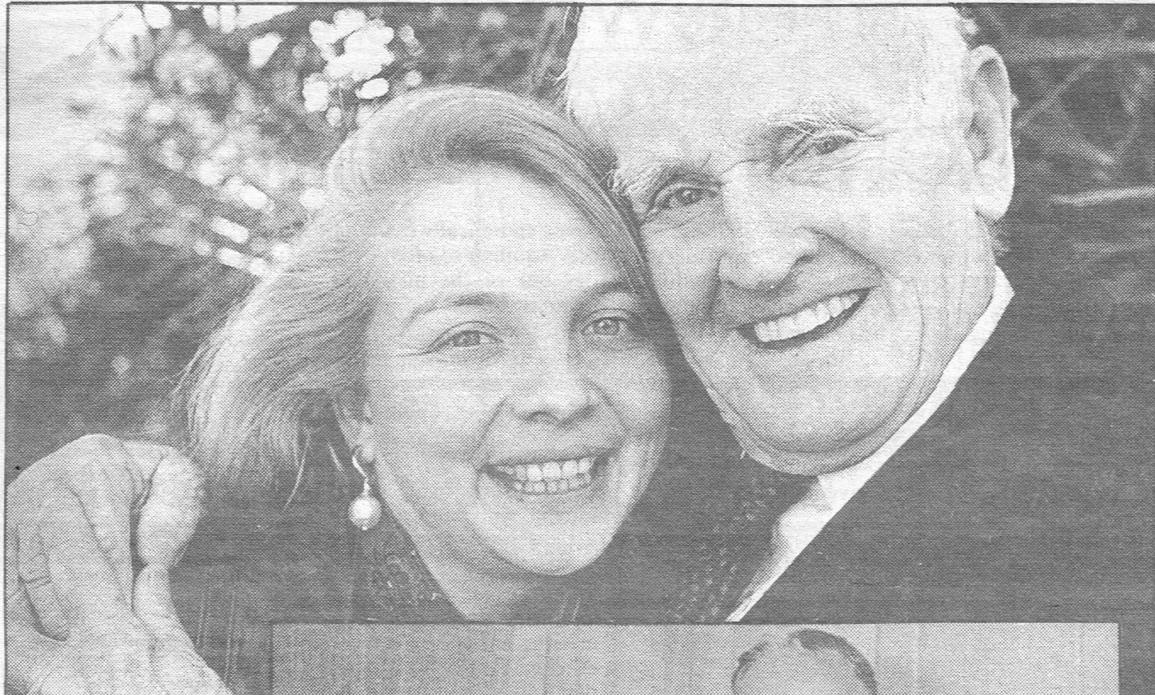


ABOVE: Tiffany and grandfather Dave outside St Barnabas Church. J J Woods helped build the original church early this century.

RIGHT: The Chevrolet removalist van... a proud addition to any truck fleet

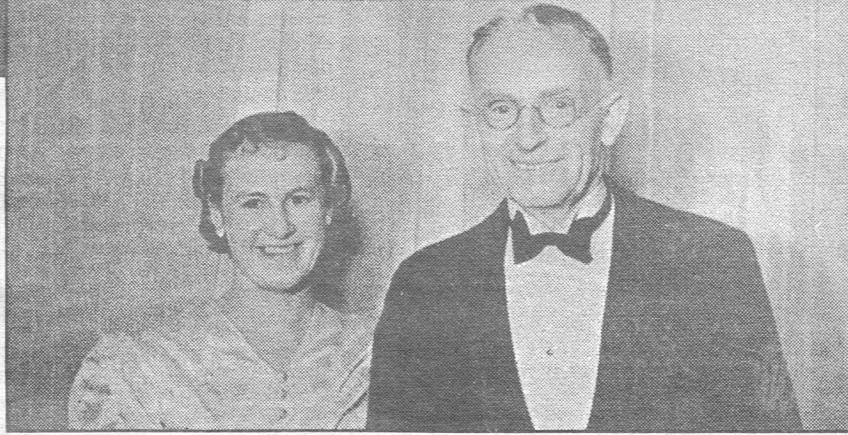


of city's heritage



ABOVE: Dave Woods and granddaughter Tiffany share a happy moment. Picture by PHIL BLATCH

RIGHT: John James Woods with his first daughter Violet... off to a ball



day.

"Jack Woods then advanced to an International motor truck and later used the famous T-model Fords."

During the horse and cart days, Jack won the tender

to transport the steel girders from Sydney for the Carramar railway bridge.

When he died, his sons Max, Dave and Billy took over the reins.

Dave Woods today describes himself as the fam-

ily and business "patriarch".

"Now Jeff (Dave's son) runs the place," he said.

"So I just stand back, give advice and go to the free lunches."

David is proud of the

family history but light hearted about it's business success.

"We're the oldest family business in the area by far," he said. "We didn't expect a lot out of the industry — but we got it."